

U.S. domestic rates for first class surface postal and post cards between 1873 and today

Postal cards are cards produced by the government on which postage is prepaid. Post cards are cards produced by private companies and the postage is not prepaid. Postal cards and post cards offered a less expensive way for people and companies to send messages to each other. The issue with postal and post cards is privacy because anybody can read the message on the back of the card. This exhibit will show examples of all of the domestic first class surface postal and post card rates from 1873 when the rate became available to the current day rate of 28 cents. Except for the rate from July 1st, 1898 to November 1st, 1917 (which is the first time both types of cards had the same rate), only one type of example card is shown.

Table of First Class Surface Postal Card and Post Cards Rates:

Type of Postal Matter	May 1, 1873	Jul 1, 1898	Nov 2, 1917	Jul 1, 1919	Apr 15, 1925	Jul 1, 1928	Jan 1, 1952	Aug 1, 1958	Jan 7, 1963
Postal card, each	1¢				1¢				
Postal or post card, each		1¢	2¢	1¢		1¢	2¢	3¢	4¢
Post cards, each					2¢				

Type of Postal Matter	Jan 7, 1968	May 16, 1971	Mar 2, 1974	Sep 14, 1975	Dec 31, 1975	May 29, 1978	Mar 22, 1981	Nov 1, 1981	Feb 17, 1985
Postal or post card, each	5¢	6¢	8¢	7¢	9¢	10¢	12¢	13¢	14¢

Type of Postal Matter	Apr 3, 1988	Feb 3, 1991	Jan 1, 1995	Jul 1, 2001	Jun 30, 2002	Jan 8, 2006	May 14, 2007	May 12, 2008	May 11, 2009
Postal or post card, each	15¢	19¢	20¢	21¢	23¢	24¢	26¢	27¢	28¢

Plan of the Exhibit:

1. Postal card rate May 1, 1873 to Jul 1, 1898
2. Postal and post card rates July 1, 1898 to November 2, 1917
3. Postal and post card rates November 2, 1917 to April 15, 1925
4. Postal and post card rates April 15, 1925 to June 30, 1928
5. Postal and post card rates July 1, 1928 to July 31, 1958
6. Postal and post card rates August 1, 1958 to January 6, 1968
7. Postal and post card rates January 7, 1968 to March 1, 1974
8. Postal and post card rates March 2, 1974 to December 30, 1975
9. Postal and post card rates December 31, 1975 to March 21, 1981
10. Postal and post card rates March 22, 1981 to February 16, 1985
11. Postal and post card rates February 17, 1985 to February 2, 1991
12. Postal and post card rates February 3, 1991 to June 30, 2001
13. Postal and post card rates July 1, 2001 to January 7, 2006
14. Postal and post card rates Jan 8, 2006 to May 11, 2008
15. Postal and post card rates May 12, 2008 to Today

References:

Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1999 - Revised Second Edition, pages 31-37, and updates to the book online.